
Piety, Patience and Love for Allah: Basis of Self Elevation

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The core concepts of self elevation for raising one's self to an exalted position needs to exercise self with the Quranic concepts of virtues of piety, which needs patience and love for Allah's given ordinance – Quran has very beautifully explained these concepts at different places in different chapters (Surah's)

Piety

Piety means to observe the Divine Commandments, conscientiously and scrupulously, and to avoid all forbidden, wicked and shameful things, believing wholly and firmly in the last day and fearing Allah and His wrath and punishment.¹ In other words, it demands on us to carry out the duties prescribed by the Almighty and to refrain strictly from doing anything that has been prohibited to us by Him. Piety according to Shah Waliullah is every act which a person does as a requirement of his submission to the Highest Council (*Al- mala' al- a'la*)², his being effaced in accepting inspiration from Allah, and his surrendering himself to the Divine purpose.

It consists of every act which is rewarded by good in this world or the next, every act which benefits the support of civilization upon which the human order is based. In contrast to it, sin is every act which man does as a result of his obedience to the devil and which results in his surrendering to his purpose, every act which is rewarded by evil in this world and the next, every act which damages the support of civilization.

Both in the Quran and Hadith a very great emphasis has been laid on piety and righteousness, and it has been urged upon us most forcefully and persistently to cultivate it in ourselves. The sole criterion of honors and superiority with Allah is Piety. "Verily, the most honorable of you in the sight of Allah is that (believer) who has *at-Taqwa*..."³

The Quran also tells that those who lead a life of piety and righteousness become the 'Friends of Allah', and then, for them there is neither fear nor shall they ever grieve.⁴

Piety requires a proper use of mind by grasping the truth of Allah and life, a proper use of wealth by spending in the way of Allah under all circumstances. It also demands a high degree of self control over one's anger and emotions, a moral capacity for forgiveness and patience and a conscious urge to make a sinner return to Allah in regret and repentance as Imam Ghazzali says *Taqwa* means to give up unlawful things owing to fear⁵ For this reason Allah says the most honorable of you is one who is most Allah fearing.⁶ The lowest sign of fear according to Ghazzali is that which is expressed in action is to abstain from unlawful and prohibited things. The fear which keeps away from unlawful things is fear of sin. If the proportion of fear is excessive and it keeps one away from doubtful things, it is called *Taqwa*.⁷

According to Badiuzzamaan Said Nursi *Taqwa* is the renunciation of evils and the Quran mentions it as having three stages⁸

- 1) the giving up of associating partners with Allah
- 2) the giving up of sins and
- 3) the giving up of all things other than Allah